- Recommendations for Theme 2 -

INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUTH WITHIN THE MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS' STRATEGIES, OPTIONS AND CHALLENGES RELATED TO OCEAN PROTECTION

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Public Awareness, Youth and New Media

At the thematic session on "Public Awareness, Youth and New Media", held in the morning of Day 2 of the Conference, a total of 5 presentations were made by their authors: M. Cira (NAUSICAA), T. Farmer (FAO), D. Chetcuti and A. Bezzina (Malta), G. Cassidy (Girls in Government), and J. Veitayaki (The University of the South Pacific). The session was chaired by P. Vallette (NAUSICAA).

'Using Drama for Learning Scientific Concepts' by Deborah Chetcuti, University of Malta and Anthony Bezzina, Masquerade Theatre Company and Arts School (Malta)

This presentation started with a 20-minute physical and mental exercise for all members at the session which highlighted the role of drama in engaging people in groups to meet each other, express themselves individually, and explore ideas related to the ocean. It recommended the use of drama and student teachers as mentors for facilitated learning. Student teachers also gave a quick impression of the values of such including promoting teamwork, use of individual talents, bolstering self esteem and confidence, and most of all having fun.

'Acting together for the Future of the Blue Planet: the World Ocean Networks initiative' by Manuel Cira, World Ocean Network International Secretariat Coordinator, Head of Cultural Services at NAUSICAA, Centre National de la Mer

The World Ocean Networks Initiative' overall aim is achieving a change in behaviour, and recommends:

- Using the Network to inform the general public about the state of the oceans;
- Promoting individuals' understanding of their role in conservation actions;
- Promoting public comment;
- Using tools such as the Ocean Information Package to promote sustainable use of the oceans;
- Developing Citizens of the Ocean by applying for a Passport of the Citizen of the Ocean, with youth and adult versions available;
- Advocating consumer responsibility cards, such as those developed for fish;
- Promoting the use of the Youth Parliament, and aiming for a UN designation;
- Promoting the Blue Planet Forum, currently addressing the EU Action Plan.

'United National Atlas of the Oceans: pooling knowledge on the state of the oceans and their sustainable use' by Tina Farmer, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations

This is an integrated database of ocean data and information, using new media, with access to everyone. It is peer-reviewed for content, with volunteer editors and recommends using clustered knowledge pools for accessing and developing information; promoting the use of the discussion forums in the Atlas; promoting new user groups and partnerships; developing efforts to connect to youth and women in less developed areas; and promoting information as a resource to be nourished, making concerted efforts to ensure access through appropriate tools

'Media and Youth Workshop' by Gwynn Cassidy, President and Founder of Girls in Government

Youth are not just the future, they are leading today. Women have surpassed men online, especially the young ones. The 'social web' is emerging as a key networking tool and vehicle for reaching youth. The presentation recommends going beyond initial education initiatives to provide resources, support and structure; promoting the use of social networking sites and going 'web 2.0' (e.g. using current tools); educating and warning youth on the permanence of web postings, and security; promoting the 'Real Hot 100' to celebrate intelligence as a virtue in women; and using freely available tools to promote positive and realistic images of young women, and connect people in appropriate networks

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'Involving People in Community-based Resource Management: the issues to be addressed' by Joeli Veitayaka, School of Marine Studies, The University of the South Pacific

Joeli Veitayaka gave ideas of how to engage local communities, thereby making management more relevant to the community needs. He emphasized the importance of involvement of traditions to promote unity and compliance; to acknowledge and use the diversity of skills at local levels; to learn from local methods to stop the erosion of the traditional system and avoid starting from scratch; and to reduce exploitation of communities and exploitation of their resources

Ocean Advocacy: Role of Women and Youth in Communicating the Message and Effecting Change – Regional Advocacy and Regional Caucuses

At the thematic session on "Ocean Advocacy: Role of Women and Youth in Communicating the Message and Effecting Change – Regional Advocacy and Regional Caucuses", held in the afternoon of Day 2 of the Conference, a total of 6 presentations were made by their authors: V. Attard (Nature Trust, Malta), F. Dylan (Townsville City Council, Australia), V. Golitsen (Moscow State University of International Relations), M.T. Farrugia (Ministry for Investment, Industry and Information Technology, Malta), and M. Papaioannou (Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association). The session was chaired by Dr. Makram Gerges (IOI-Egypt).

'Programmes of the Foundation for Environmental Education' by Vince Attard, Nature Trust (Malta)

The Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation aiming to promote sustainable development through environmental education (formal school education, training of staff and general awareness raising). The Specific objectives of FEE are: to raise public awareness of environmental and sustainable development issues; to encourage citizens to take an active role in environmental management to take practical steps to reduce negative environmental impacts; to extend learning in the wider community; and to develop skills to initiate and sustain Local Agenda 21 initiatives.

'An Australian Youth Perspective on Sustainable Fisheries and Marine Protection in the Australasian and Pacific Regions' by Dylan Furnell, IOI Australia, Townsville City Council, Australian Youth Representative

The presentation discussed some national and regional arrangements in Australia and neighbouring states designed to implement strategies for the sustainable management of important fish species and the implementation of marine protected zones in the high seas and the deep ocean. One of the most important and challenging issues facing the sustainability of fisheries is IUU fishing and ports of convenience. Urgent steps must be taken to address this.

'Engaging Women and Youth in Addressing Ecosystem-based Management, Good Governance and Security Issues in the Mediterranean – Black Sea Region' by Vladimir Golitsyn, Moscow State University of International Relations

Vladimir Golitsyn idenfied at least three issues that should receive priority attention in the Mediterranean-Black Sea region, namely: ecosystem-based management approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of seas, oceans and their resources; good governance; and maritime security. None of these issues could be addressed with a good chance of success unless women and youth are actively involved in them and realize that the future of this historically and economically important region and the survival of the Mediterranean and Black Seas are in their hands. The presentation addressed in detail these three issues and the role of women and youth in this regard.

'Erosion Hazard Vulnerability of Northern Malta's Coastal Zones: How May Women and Youth be Implicated in it?' by Maria Theresa Farrugia, EU Fund Support Officer, Ministry for Investment, Industry and Information Technology

Maria Theresa Farrugia addressed several objectives which need to be undertaken to empower both women and youth to acquire skills, knowledge and awareness about the vulnerability issue of the coastal erosion hazard. Northern Malta's coastal zone was used as a case study. The presentation sought to emphasize the importance of including women and youth in the process of identifying vulnerable coastal characteristics, and introduced a methodology that would help increase the knowledge and skills of young generations and women in relation to Malta's coastal zones, their protection and conservation and to generate more awareness of and increase participation in the conservation of the coast and in tackling its vulnerability issue of coastal erosion hazards.

'Environment Awareness in Youth – the HELMEPA Junior Aapproach' by Marina Papaioannou, Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association

Marina Papaioannou introduced the HELMEPA Junior Program which, through the activities of member children, has managed to influence the environmental conduct of people in their local communities. HELMEPA Junior members have joined forces with children in Australia, Cyprus and Turkey in an attempt to influence decision-making centers around the world to respect the marine environment and take into consideration the needs of future generations. As a result, the issue of Environmental Awareness in Youth prominently features in meetings of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), whilst the latter has appointed children from Cyprus, Greece and Turkey as its "Ambassadors for the Protection of the Marine Environment".

Education for Sustainable Development

At the thematic session on "Education for Sustainable Development", held in the morning of Day 3 of the Conference, a total of 6 presentations were made by their authors: R. South (IOI-Australia), P. Pissierssens (IOC), J. Baptist Gauci and Horace Gauci (Malta), D. Sweeney (Australia), A. Harsono Soepardjo (IOI-Indonesia), and J. A. Schembri and M. Attard (University of Malta). The session was chaired by R. South (IOI-Australia)

'Progress in IOI's Capacity Building Programme – IOI-Ocean Learn' by Robin South, Coordinator IOI-OceanLearn, IOI-Australia

Robin South gave an overview of OceanLearn, the International Ocean Institute's coordinating mechanism for its network-wide capacity building programme. The programme aims to provide quality-assured training courses and university-level courses in ocean affairs and marine science. The Ocean Governance courses offered by IOI-Canada in collaboration with Dalhousie University, Canada, and IOI-Malta in collaboration with the University of Malta, are OceanLearn's main courses focusing on ocean affairs and the law of the sea. OceanLearn also delivers courses on Development and Management of Marine Protected Areas (with IOI-Australia), The FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (with IOI-Pacific Islands) and Managing Marine Pollution (with IOI-Southern Africa).

'Capacity Development in Ocean Data and Information Management: from Database to Web Site' by Peter Pissierssens, Director, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Project Office for IODE

The International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) Programme of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC) developed a capacity development strategy that is based on combining provision of infrastructure, training and operational support in a regional context. This strategy has led to the development of Ocean Data and Information Networks (ODINs). Training as well as continuous professional development are important elements in ODINs. Peter Pissierssens introduced the various tools that have been developed including OceanTeacher, IODE Alumni database, OceanPortal and OceanDocs. In addition, the increasing focus of IODE to serve ocean science, observation and management will be demonstrated through the Marine Atlases. Finally, the planned development of a global distributed data network (OceanDataPortal) will enable any user to seek and retrieve data stored in any of the participating data providers around the world.

'The Gender Gap in Science and Technology in Malta – Evaluating the problem and tackling the issues' by John Baptist Gauci, NCPE and Horace Gauci, Carlo Diacono Girls Junior Lyceum

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John Baptist Gauci and Horace Gauci introduced the one-year project, funded by UNESCO and coordinated by the NCPE, the ETC and the University of Malta, that sought to measure and evaluate the extent of the under-representation of women in the area of science and technology in Malta. During their presentation, they gave the general picture of the situation present in Malta regarding the number of students following and graduating from a science-related course, and regarding the number of people employed in a science-related career, in particular, in a maritime-related field. They also introduced two initiatives undertaken in order to promote science, mainly among female students attending state secondary schools.

'The City as a Learnscape – Integrating Sustainability Learning in the Townsville (Qld, Australia) Urban Environment' by Damien Sweeney, Sustainability Officer, Townsville City Council, Australia

Damien Sweeney explained how Townsville City Council (Australia) sought to engage youth and adults in learning about sustainability through seeing, feeling, and understanding the City as a Learnscape. This active learning, combined with interpretive material, helps people understand the link between the environment, environmental processes, and urban life in everyday settings. Through the integration of the concepts of Community Based Social Marketing and Thematic Interpretation, learning about sustainability in the urban environment allows the community to critically reflect on how human behaviour and action impact on the environment, and hence, what behavioural changes and actions are needed to progress the vision of Townsville as a model Sustainable City. Importantly, education about sustainability requires building and showcasing frameworks for partnerships in order to emphasise the collective linkages needed to progress the vision of a sustainable future within a working-city Learnscape.

'Youth and Children Program: Marine Environment Education for Children' by A. Harsono Soepardjo and Riani Widiarti, IOI-Indonesia

The objectives of the Youth and Children programme are to give basic knowledge of the components that build the marine ecosystem, and to increase awareness on, interest and passion for the sea, to help protect and conserve it in the future. The programme was defined into three approaching methods, which are: awareness publications, writing or drawing competitions, and a field trip. The programme showed that most of the children were already aware of the condition of their marine environment and also showed great appreciation of the marine environment and its conservation, and good knowledge on various marine organisms.

'Empowering Young Female Geography Graduates in Malta for Ocean and Coastal Management' by John A. Schembri, University of Malta.

John Schembri discussed how the development of a Geography curriculum at tertiary level is one of the best media through which the aims of the Millennium Development goals and the ideals of the United Nations' Decade of Education for Sustainable Development can be achieved. Geography straddles the social, natural and environmental sciences through skills that span the academic, practical, technical and mathematical and managerial realms. It provides learners not only with the basic tools of knowing the earth, coasts and oceans, but also helps to identify the triggers behind spatial processes and areal patterns that assist in the interpretation of various phenomena at an array of scales.

Recommendations

The overall recommendations that emerged from the Theme 2 subplenary sessions are:

a. Involvement of Women and Youth in achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals:

1. The role of women and youth in advocating the urgent need for sustainable coastal protection measures should be intensified. Their advocacy should primarily aim at persuading stakeholders to develop the coasts and adjacent coastal zone in a sustainable manner to safeguard against irrational exploitation.

2. Acknowledge the contemporary leadership being shown by women and youth especially at the level of local communities, by showcasing important

contributions and role models, and further enhance this role through the use of modern and available tools, notably through innovative methods and media such as the internet. IOI is invited to prepare a volume on women of achievement, and consider a related biannual award.

3. Education of local communities should focus on the involvement and empowerment of women and youth, addressing items of priority as regards livelihoods and resources, and promoting the need to change attitudes and behaviour.

4. Women depend on the oceans and coastal habitats for their survival, sustenance and subsistence; the sustainable use of marine bio-resources and preservation of the coast is linked to the lifestyle of the population far removed from the coast; women need to have an actual role in governance, be given the opportunity to express opinions and strategies that give them a role in changing the attitudes of the community they come from.

5. Develop youth leadership and empowerment through specific cooperative national and international actions, involving youth directly in civil society/international/governmental programs under their own coordination and leadership, including identification of focus problems to be addressed.

6. Develop global, interregional cooperation and networking to connect communities through cultural exchanges, common visions, dreams and stressing opportunities to achieve shared values.

b. Need for global involvement:

1. Implement UNCLOS, UNCED, Agenda21 and other related programmes by using the opportunities provided in the international legal regimes, in particular the EEZ and the "*Common Heritage of Humankind*", to achieve a fair use and distribution of resources and services.

2. Support governance based on an ecosystem-based management approach by: (a) efforts to raise public awareness; (b) intensified training activities of officials and managers; (c) acquiring and using the best available scientific knowledge; and (d) active involvement of civil society, stressing in particular the need to maximise women and youth participation in ocean governance. Introducing Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM), especially in vulnerable coastal areas, must be of highest priority.

c. Education for sustainable development:

1. Offer well-designed environmental education programmes, and provide adequate informational services to the women and youth communities as a means to educate and empower these communities. This is conducive to ownership by both governments and citizens of sustainable development in a responsible way.

2. Promote integrated curriculum in primary, secondary, university, and professional training (such as OceanLearn) and experiential education through interactive learning opportunities (learnscapes, art, hands-on experiments).

3. Go beyond simple awareness raising and use frameworks (such as Community Based Social Marketing) that foster sustainable behaviour by uncovering the barriers to change.

4. Increase wide-ranging capacity building activities, promote initiatives such as train-the-trainer programmes, and provide opportunities for in-country dissemination of knowledge.

5. Support and strengthen education and the development of multipurpose curricula towards a more comprehensive education targeting skills development to deal with the challenges of environmental deterioration, global change, resource decline, poverty abatement, etc.

6. Invite the government of Malta, through the Ministry of Education, to examine the above endeavour possibly in consultation with UNESCO, thereby pursuing the legacy of Arvid Pardo as well as Elisabeth Mann Borgese.

7. Promote and facilitate career opportunities for women in marine science, engineering, and technology.

c. <u>Providing access to ocean data and information:</u>

1. The value of data resides in the extraction of knowledge and application thereof; the sharing and use of knowledge and information about the oceans among the world's nations must be supported as a means to build on gained experiences and past successes, and to learn from mistakes and failures.

2. Support the synthesis and quality assurance of ocean data and information, and promote its wide dissemination to the benefit of wide ranging applications, supporting economic activities and strengthening the knowledge of people about the oceans.

3. Promote interoperability of data and information sharing systems to expeditiously deliver knowledge about ocean and coastal conditions to users in appropriate forms for their applications.

Theme 2 Snapshots

- Sustainable sea food consumption, namely making relevant choices on what to eat, is an effective contribution by each individual to conserve the marine ecosystem

- Caring for the Blue Planet by citizenship of the world ocean can make the difference

- Strengthening the knowledge of people about the oceans; strengthening public participation on ocean related issues.

- Social web networks as a powerful tool to sound the voice of youth and women

- Governance is not just actions expected from governments

- Community-based initiatives are faster and more effective in achieving change

- Traditional knowledge and practices are a legacy to the past generations and can be more effective in tackling local problems than costly technologies can achieve.

- Youth are leaders of today and not only of tomorrow.

- We need stronger legal frameworks and stronger joint efforts by countries to improve the control and policing in the high seas.

- Online information services need to reach all levels and parts of the world's population and there should be no barrier between knowledge and its use by people